

## Saturday Gazette.

Bloomfield and Montclair, N. J.

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CITIZENS IN CONFERENCE.

ADJOURNED MEETING.

The Euclidian Society had the cou tent

to call another meeting of citizens in their

Hall last Monday evening, adjourned from

the 1st inst.

The subject pre-arranged at the former

meeting and publicly announced was:—

What should be the policy of Bloom-

field in reference to seeking annexation to

Newark?

At the hour appointed, a small represen-

tation of citizens had arrived and five la-

dies. A number of other gentlemen came in

along through the evening increasing the

attendance to about fifty. There was

evidently no magnetism in the subject to

attract citizens from their homes, nor could

the speakers arouse any enthusiasm in the

meeting.

As before, the Euclidian had appointed

two of its members to collect statistics in ref-

erence to the annexation of Woodside and of

Rossville to Newark. This part of the

programme was committed to gentlemen

who were well qualified for the work and

who evidently took pains to present nu-

merous facts as possible bearing on the

subject.

Among the speakers were Messrs. C. J.

Turner, Frank Bliss, E. S. Wilde, James

Beach, R. Peale, J. Banks, Reford, W. D.

Foulke, G. T. Moore and Jas. A. Hedges.

Of these one or two only seemed to favor

the idea of annexation, and two more ad-

mitted its probability as some future day.

Messrs. Bliss, Beach, Foulke and Peale

made telling speeches against annexation,

stating many facts and practical reasons

from their own experience and knowledge.

The first was also sometimes quite hu-

morous, and gave vivacity to the debate.

Mr. Reford waxed eloquent in his peroration

and paid a well merited tribute to Dr.

Joseph A. Davis whose unselfish and far-

sighted wisdom had done more to build up

and benefit Bloomfield than any other citizen.

Not adopting the dog-in-the-manger

policy of keeping his property intact for

high prices, or for posterity, while his

neighbors improved their lands and sold

at running prices; but, always actuated by

generous impulses, he had built houses

suited to the wants of applicants, or sold

lots to meet their wishes, accepting pay-

ments by small or larger installments to

suit their conveniences; any way to accom-

modate the people and invite population.

An example which the speaker commanded

to our large land-holders generally.

[We reprinted last week a thoughtful

and suggestive article upon *The U. S.*

Senate from one of our Religious Weeklies

which we hope was not over-looked by our

readers. They will thank us for the fol-

lowing sequel to it from the same able

journal.]—ED. GAZETTE.]

## WANTED—STATESMEN

We spoke last week of the need of a

new class of men in our offices of legisla-

tion and administration. We meant no

reflection upon the men who served us

during the war and the early period of re-

construction. They had a special work

before them; they did it faithfully, consci-

entious, and, we believe, as wisely as any

body of legislators could have performed

a similar work, under like circumstances.

That special work is done. Another task

of a very different character now claims

attention. It is one that requires to be

treated in a different spirit from the war

work; it demands qualities of mind quite

opposite to those which were fitted to deal

with the other.

Militarists the controlling thought has

been the instant peril which hung over

the country. The maxim, *Inter arma silent leges*, prevailed, and gave justification to a

temporary neglect of the ordinary prin-

ciples and formalities of governmental

action. Enemies threatened to destroy us

as if during the night. They had to be

put down at once. They were put down,

but were still strong and crafty, and dan-

gerous. They had to be disabled, so that

they should not rise again, take us by sur-

prise, and overwhelm us. These emergen-

cies had to be met firmly and summarily.

They called for men who would act on the

instant—who would seek immediate effects

and not stop before moving to consider

how what they did would last or twenty

years afterwards.

The country has passed out of its dan-

ger. Laws and order for the moment are

not now in place. Our present difficulties

are such as time and patience will do more

to remove than any direct measures. Alarm

is expressed at the disorder which still

prevails in some parts of the country, but

that disorder is not strange or dangerous

unless it is wrongly dealt with.

It would be a wonder, indeed, if a people who have

passed through the experiences of the

Southern people, and have endured the

reverse of conditions which they have

suffered, should become at once quiet and

contented, or have no difficulty in adapt-

ing themselves to their new circumstances.

The phenomena of disturbance are only

the outward signs of a convolution which

has affected the very foundation of society.

It is the convolution that is to be attended

to, not the transient outward signs. For

those who were men of thought, who will

look to the future rather than the present;

and act only upon deliberation.

The country has just begun to real-

ize the fullness of the evolution through

which it has passed. Our Government

has, in effect, been almost as completely

overturned as if the rebels had succeed-

ed. The form and the machinery remain,

not the objects of legislation, the theory

of administration, and the habits of politi-

cal thought have been greatly changed.

The original doctrine of our polity are

becoming almost as strange to the young

men who are beginning to vote as though

they were masters of ancient history. It

is yet a question whether the government

will be allowed to stand permanently, or

whether it will be allowed to stand for a

time, or whether it will be allowed to stand

at all.

have to be readjusted so as to conform to the necessities of the new situation, while it retains as much as possible of the old usage. The whose statesmanship consists in passing a bill to-day to meet what they think they want, and passing another tomorrow to correct the mistakes of the first, and whose foresight is limited to calculating the effect of their work upon the next party caucus or the next election, are not fitted to deal with this question.

The great problem of the reorganization of Southern society cannot be approached too carefully. It is full of complications and difficulties which the clearest and ablest minds who have studied it have not yet been able to grapple with satisfactorily.

A civil rights bill will not solve it, nor a decree of court, nor a standing army. It cannot be solved in a day.

There are now weekly, perhaps, in a generation,

as many as four, meetings for law and

order, for the protection of the law and